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BASIC ASSUMPTIONS CONCERNING CAPABILITY

1. At full strength, three Detachments, each with the following capability:

- a. Five aircraft.
- b. Nine sorties per month per aircraft.
- c. Fifteen pilots.
- d. Three missions per month per pilot.

2. These assumptions yield a total capability of forty-five extended missions per month. Assuming missions of seven to eight hours (maximum range), aircraft would operate on the maximum between sixty and seventy-five hours per month. This capability assumes that first priority will be given to photographic missions designed to exploit whatever weather opportunities are offered but that a capability will exist and will be open to ready utilization for radar and electronic missions which are independent of weather.

3. This sortie rate for aircraft is considered realistic in view of the character and numbers of maintenance personnel planned to be available. The mission rate per pilot may turn out to be unrealistically low if pilots wish to get their tours of duty over with. It should not appear to be over optimistically high in the case of any pilots who are willing to volunteer for this duty at all. A limiting factor not here taken into account is the time that may be required to change from military payload to another, and perhaps even to test fly such new payload after installation. If it turns out that different payloads are not readily interchangeable, the capability of the inventory of vehicles may be significantly reduced.

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